

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY – MAY 13, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.  
REMOTELY VIA CISCO WEBEX

The meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and re-broadcast Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Friday through Monday at 7:00 p.m. and provided on YouTube; the minutes were posted to the City's website

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:00 PM

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by Deputy City Clerk Kim Carrieri

Present: Council members Butterbaugh, Cacciotti, Carper, Ickes, Jordan, Kelley, and Mayor Pacifico

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – offered by the Mayor and none given

PRESENTATIONS – Mayor Pacifico presented a Proclamation to Nate Kissell, Public Works Director, for National Public Works Week; Nate Kissell stated this is an important week to members of the highway department and nice for them to hear that they are doing a job; some of their work includes: leaf collection, road repairs, storm water, inspections, engineering, pipe projects, sink hole repairs, capital projects, playground and park maintenance, grass cutting, traffic signal maintenance, street lights, snow removal, painting and signs; Nate Kissell stated the department is out there daily, not armed with guns or sirens, but armed with tools and trucks, and they do a good job; Nate stated he is proud of his team and their morale during the pandemic as they continue to collect leaves and cut grass; Nate thanked Mayor and Council for recognizing the hard work DPW does throughout the year

## RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, April 8, 2020. (0029-20)

b)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Worksession held Monday, April 27, 2020. (0030-20)

c)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Sole Purpose Special Meeting held Friday, May 8, 2020. (0031-20)

d)designating Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, Timothy Hileman as Agent for the City of Altoona, authorized to execute all forms and documents on behalf of the City of Altoona, for the purpose of obtaining Financial assistance regarding DR-4506, COVID-19 Disaster, and for the City Clerk to attest to same, as needed. (0032-20)

e)approving an agreement with PennDOT for an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Grant (ARLE), for new "School Zone Ahead" advanced warning flashers for the Altoona Area Junior and Senior High Schools, at 17<sup>th</sup> Street & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, and Baker School, at Ward Avenue & Coleridge Avenue, in the amount of \$49,188.00, with 80% or \$36,794.00 payable from the grant and 20% or a \$12,394.00 match payable by the City, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0033-20)

f)approving an agreement with PennDOT for an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Grant (ARLE), for Pedestrian/Crosswalk Improvements for the Altoona Area Junior and Senior High Schools, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, in the amount of \$129,019.00, with 80% or \$103,753.00 payable from the grant and 20% or a \$25,266.00 match payable through the City, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0034-20)

g)approving the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan & the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and certifications and the City Clerk to attest to same, and to file appropriate statements, certifications and meeting minutes with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (0035-20)

h)authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents for a Blair County Conservation District Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Grant, for a section of North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from North 9<sup>th</sup> Street to North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, in the approximate amount of \$5,000, payable from the General Fund, and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0036-20)

i)approving an agreement between the City of Altoona and the Altoona Area School District for the collection of the City's Per Capita Tax for the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. (0037-20)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on items a through i and passed 7 to 0 with all present

(Resolution aa through dd were voted on following the action taken on Ord. 3 and Ord. 4 below)

aa)extending the discount period for payment of 2020 Real Estate Tax to the same day as the delinquency date which is, June 30, 2020, to give those residents who have suffered a temporary loss of income a total of four (4) months from the date of the tax notice, to pay the tax at the discounted rate, which provides a discount of 2% from the total amount of said tax. (0038-20)

bb)extending the deadline for payment of the 2020 Flat Rate Occupation Tax to July 15, 2020, to give those residents who have suffered a temporary loss of income more time to pay the tax without penalty. (0039-20)

cc)extending the deadline for the filing of the 2020 Mercantile License Tax returns to July 15, 2020, to give those businesses who have suffered a temporary loss of revenue more time to file the return and pay the tax without penalty. (0040-20)

dd)extending the deadline for the filing of the 2020 Business Privilege Tax returns to July 15, 2020, to give those businesses who have suffered a temporary loss of revenue, more time to file the return and pay the tax without penalty. (0041-20)

### Introduction

1)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO AMEND AND RESTATE CHAPTER 44 TO PERMIT THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF AND EXEMPT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF FROM THE FIRE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Ickes.

### Introduction

2)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO AMEND AND RESTATE CHAPTER 105 ENTITLED "POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION", ARTICLE I ENTITLED "RULES AND REGULATIONS" TO: ADD THE DEFINITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE, PERMIT THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE AND EXEMPT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE FROM THE POLICE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Cacciotti.

### Adoption - Governing Body

3)AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 646 ENTITLED "TAXATION" BY AMENDING ARTICLE IV THEREOF ENTITLED, "DISCOUNTS AND PENALTIES", TO PERMIT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO EXTEND THE DISCOUNT PERIOD BY RESOLUTION AND AMENDING ARTICLE XII THEREOF ENTITLED, "FLAT RATE OCCUPATION TAX" TO EXTEND THE LATE PAYMENT DEADLINE BY RESOLUTION; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5762)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.

Introduction – The Governing Body

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

Second – Mayor Pacifico

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Adoption - Governing Body

4)AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 646 ENTITLED "TAXATION" BY AMENDING ARTICLE I THEREOF ENTITLED "MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX", TO ESTABLISH MAY 15TH AS THE DATE FOR FILING OF THE RETURNS REQUIRED BY SAID ARTICLE AND PERMIT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR FILING SUCH RETURNS REQUIRED THEREIN BY RESOLUTION AND ARTICLE V THEREOF ENTITLED, "BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX", TO PERMIT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A RETURN BY RESOLUTION; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5763)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.

Introduction – The Governing Body

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Ickes

Second – Councilwoman Jordan

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Adoption - Councilman Cacciotti

5)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA INCURRING NONELECTORAL DEBT, IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$16,450,000, TO BE EVIDENCED BY ONE OR MORE GUARANTEED SEWER REVENUE BONDS, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO REFUND THE CITY'S LEASE RENTAL DEBT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2010 SEWER REVENUE NOTE OF THE ALTOONA WATER AUTHORITY, AND PAY RELATED COSTS; ACCEPTING A BOND PURCHASE PROPOSAL FOR THE BONDS; SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND SUBSTANTIAL FORM OF THE BONDS; PLEDGING THE SEWER REVENUES RECEIVABLE BY THE CITY TO SECURE THE BONDS; GUARANTYING THE PAYMENTS DUE ON THE BONDS BY PLEDGING THE CITY'S FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER; AND APPROVING RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS. (ORD. NO. 5764)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.

Introduction – Councilman Cacciotti

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

Second – Councilman Ickes

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Following the adoption of the ordinances, the City Clerk returned to resolutions aa through dd on this agenda

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read resolutions aa through dd into the record at this time and called for the consent vote which passed 7 to 0 with all present

#### CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Ken Decker reported as follows: Hats off to DPW for doing an extraordinary job and to all City employees for showing up, masking up and maintaining social distance, and for keeping City functions running; the hard work displayed by all City departments is appreciated during these increasingly tough times; City Manager Decker stated he appreciates the leadership of the Mayor and Council and their contributions to Blair County moving to phase yellow on May 15<sup>th</sup>; Ken Decker stated the City will begin to modify City operations on May 15<sup>th</sup> and everyone is encouraged to abide by the Governor's guidelines and to be conscientious; Ken Decker stated the City has been able to do a great job managing the pandemic locally and hopefully the City will be able to continue doing that

#### MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Cacciotti spoke in reference to the yellow phase on Friday and what that means to the general public and recreation stating it appears that any kind of organized league play or games will not be permitted; if there are under 25 people and the group is adhering to social distancing the fields are unlocked for recreation; the next CBRC meeting is on May 21<sup>st</sup> and it will most likely be a remote meeting

Councilwoman Jordan stated she knows businesses are frustrated and Council has their best interest at heart and is encouraging businesses that as they move forward into the yellow phase, to follow the guidelines that are set forth, and hopefully the City will come out of this stronger than ever

Mayor Pacifico stated he received a letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors who teamed up with a California clothing manufacturer, Bella Canvas, and ran a campaign called, Masks for Mayors; the company donated one million masks and the campaign gave away at least 2400 masks to every Mayor in America; Mayor Pacifico stated he placed an order and received 9600 masks and a discussion will be held in the near future regarding distribution of the masks to our community

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* who asked questions of Mayor and City Council

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:32 p.m.